

## Message Text

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17

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-07 L-02

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FM AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0489

INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

USMISSION NATO

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY BONN

C O N F I D E N T I A L COPENHAGEN 0534

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, DA, XZ

SUBJECT: FOREIGN MINISTER ON THE NORDIC SITUATION: (A) THE SWEDISH-FINNISH CONTROVERSY: (B) THE LIGHTWEIGHT FIGHTER

1. WHEN I CALLED ON FOREIGN MINISTER K. B. ANDERSEN

FEBRUARY 24, HE TOLD ME THAT THIS WEEK HE WOULD BE BEGINNING A ROUND OF CONSULTATIONS WITH HIS NEIGHBORS. HE WOULD GO TO OSLO ON FEBRUARY 28 FOR A MEETING WITH FOREIGN MINISTER FRYDENLUND AND ON MARCH 3 WOULD BE IN STOCKHOLM TO MEET FOREIGN MINISTER ANDERSEN AND, HE EXPECTS, PRIME MINISTER PALME. ON MARCH 7 HE WOULD HAVE TALKS WITH FRG FOREIGN MINISTER GENSCHER IN HAMBURG. ON MARCH 19 AND 20 THERE WOULD BE A NORDIC FOREIGN MINISTERS MEETING IN HELSINKI.

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2. I SAID THAT WE HAD BEEN INTERESTED TO READ OF THE

APPARENT "TIFF" BETWEENN THE FINNS AND THE SWedes AS A RESULT OF FINNISH CHARGES THAT THE SWedes WERE MOVING AWAY FROM A NEUTRAL POSITION. ANDERSEN SAID THAT HE HAD DISCUSSED THIS ISSUE WITH HIS FRIEND PRIME MINISTER SORSA WHEN THEY MET IN REYKJAVIK DURING THE RECENT NORDIC COUNCIL MEETING. HE HAD FOUND SORSA "VERY UNHAPPY" ABOUT THE WHOLE INCIDENT. THE PRIME MINISTER HAD EXPLAINED THAT IT HAD ALL BEEN STARTED BY TWO YOUNG REPORTERS FROM A FINNISH NEWSPAPER WHO HAD ACTED IN AN IRRESPONSIBLE MANNER. THEIR CHARGES HAD THEN BEEN ECHOED BY AN OFFICIAL FINNISH REPRESENTATIVE AT REYKJAVIK WHO HAD GONE BEYOND HIS INSTRUCTIONS. SORSA HAD TOLD ANDERSEN: "THEN I HAD TO GO TO REYKJAVIK AND STRAIGHTEN THIS THING OUT." THIS WAS THE FINNISH EXPLANATION HE HAD RECEIVED. (COMMENT: IT SEEMS TO HAVE BEEN STRAIGHTENED OUT, IF AT ALL, IN A PALME-SORSA MEETING AT THE COPENHAGEN AIRPORT AFTER THE REYKJAVIK MEETING.)

3. I ASKED THE FOREIGN MINISTER WHETHER HE HAD BEEN ACTIVELY ENGAGED IN THE QUESTION OF A REPLACEMENT FIGHTER PLANE. HE REPLIED THAT HE WOULD BE RECEIVING HIS FIRST BRIEFING ON THE SUBJECT SHORTLY AFTER MY VISIT, ADDING WITH A SMILE, "THE SWedes HAVE BEEN IN CLOSE CONTACT WITH ME." THERE WAS LITTLE DOUBT, HE SAID, THAT THE SWedes WERE CONSCIOUSLY TRYING TO "BROADEN THE BASE" OF THEIR NEUTRALITY.

4. I SAID THAT WE HAD BEEN CONCERNED AT REPORTS THAT THE DANISH LABOR MOVEMENT WAS THINKING OF A PLANE PURCHASE ONLY IN THE CONTEXT OF THE UNEMPLOYMENT SITUATION. ANDERSEN NOTED THAT THE DANISH GOVERNMENT HAD NOT YET REACHED ANY DECISION ON A PURCHASE BUT SAID HE WAS PERSONALLY CONVINCED THAT THE QUESTION WOULD NOT BE DECIDED ON THE BASIS OF THE NUMBER OF JOBS PROVIDED FOR DANISH INDUSTRY.

5. COMMENT: ANDERSEN IS A CONGENITAL OPTIMIST AND I HOPE HIS LAST STATEMENT IS RIGHT. I WILL CHECK FURTHER INTO THIS WHENI SEE HIS COUNTERPART IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENSE, ORLA MOLLER, ON FEBRUARY 26.

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